

From: Family Voices
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 7:41 AM
To: Marshall, Joyce Y.
Subject: Family Voices Washington DC Update: October 14, 2015--News and Resources from Washington!

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Hi, just a reminder that Washington DC Update is now a subscription newsletter. Of course we hope you will not want to do so, but if you care to unsubscribe please click the link below. Don't forget to add mvickers@familyvoices.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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October 14, 2015



Washington DC Update

WASHINGTON DC UPDATE 10/14/2015



Did you know that ONE in FIVE families has at least one child with special health care needs? [Join the Family Voices One-in-Five Awareness Campaign](#).

Don't forget to check out the [Family Voices/NCFPP ACA webpage](#) and the latest Family Voices ACA [blog post](#) on assessing financial help under the ACA.

Greetings from Washington!

The House of Representatives is in turmoil, trying to figure out who its next Speaker will be. The national debt limit will need to be lifted on or about November 5, and the law keeping the government funded expires on December 11. Meanwhile, ACA open enrollment begins on November 1. The government has launched a new **National Center of Excellence for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation**, and a new **"Native One-Stop"** portal of resources for Native American, Alaskan Native, and tribal populations. Read about these developments and resources in this week's Update.

Awareness Campaigns

October 18 through 24 is [Invisible Disabilities Week](#), and TRICARE observes [Women's Health Month](#). Click [here](#) to see how to take care of yourself at every stage of life.

[Don't miss the listing below about an October 15 Family Voices webinar on Building Partnerships to Enroll People with Disabilities in the ACA Marketplaces.]

[NOTE: Events are listed in chronological order, by the first event in a series, where applicable.]

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Upcoming Webinars and Calls**

- Oct 15-Nov 19 - *Beyond the Basics (Series)*
 - Oct 15 - *Part II: Determining Household Size and Income*
 - Oct 22 - *Part III: Plan Design*
 - Oct 29 - *Part IV: Exemptions and Penalties*
 - Nov 19 - *Overview of Immigrant Eligibility Policies and Application Processes for Health Insurance Affordability Programs*
- Oct 15 - *A New Road Forward: How Hospital, Public Health, and Stakeholder Collaboration has Changed the Community Health Landscape*
- Oct 15 - *Building Partnerships to Enroll People with Disabilities in the ACA Marketplaces*
- Oct 20 - *Winning the Care for Supported Decision-Making*
- Oct 20-Nov 5 - *Creating Successful Federal Grant Applications (Series)*
 - Oct 20 - *Why All the Excitement about Logic Models?*
 - Nov 5 - *Getting to Know the Federal Government and Funding Opportunities*
- Oct 29 - *National Pediatric Readiness Project: Preparing the Emergency Department to Provide Psychological Support to Children and Families in a Disaster*
- Nov 4 - *Advocacy Legalese*
- Nov 10 - *Connecting Partners and Resources to Prepare Youth for Careers*

- **In Congress**

- House Leadership
- Spending Legislation/Budget Deal
- ACA Repeal

- **ACA News and Information**

- Reminder: Next ACA Open Enrollment Starts November 1
- Improvements to HealthCare.gov in Plan Comparison and Privacy
- *Worth Repeating*: "Periodic Data Matching"
- *Worth Repeating*: Nondiscrimination and the ACA

- **ACA Resources**

- *Worth Repeating*: Open Enrollment: Materials for Consumers and Assistors
- *Worth Repeating*: Analysis of ACA's Prescription Drug Standards

- **Other News and Information**

- New National Center of Excellence for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
- Rule on Pay for Home Care Workers Will Go into Effect
- "No Wrong Door" System Grants
- Invisible Disabilities Week

- **Other Resources**

- Native One-Stop Portal
- Family-Centered Medical Home Training Manual
- ParityTrack: Website on Implementation of Mental Health Parity Laws
- TRICARE: Exceptional Care for Exceptional Family Members
- Of Possible Interest
 - NCMHI Seeking Models of Pediatric Medical Home
 - Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation Announces Public Policy Fellowship
 - *Worth Repeating*: Survey on Services for People with Genetic Conditions and their Families
 - *Worth Repeating*: Families Needed for Study of Inequities in Coverage and Financing Research

- *Worth Repeating:* Consumer Representatives Sought by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners
- [Public Policy Corner](#)
 - Contact Us
- [Family Voices](#)
 - Membership
 - Mission

UPCOMING WEBINARS AND CALLS

"Beyond the Basics" (Series-NOTE CHANGE IN REGISTRATION)

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities will be hosting the following webinars as part of its "Beyond the Basics" series. Registration links for all the webinars can be found [here](#).

***NOTE:** Due to an unresolved technical issue a new webinar platform will be used for these webinars. If you have already registered for any of the upcoming webinars, you should automatically receive an invitation to register for the presentation using the new webinar platform. If you do not receive an invitation or have any questions or concerns, please email Halley Cloud at cloud@cbpp.org.*

October Series, Part II: Determining Household Size and Income

Thursday, October 15, 2:00-3:30 pm ET

The second webinar in the series will detail the rules used to determine household size, and will explain what counts as income when determining eligibility for premium tax credits and Medicaid. Register [here](#).

October Series, Part III: Plan Design

Thursday, October 22, 2:00-3:30 pm ET

The third webinar in the series will provide an overview of health plan design including cost-sharing charges in Marketplace plans, eligibility for cost-sharing reductions, and how cost-sharing reductions affect costs for consumers. It will also cover how to evaluate Marketplace plans based on cost-sharing and plan design. Register [here](#).

October Series, Part IV: Exemptions and Penalties

Thursday, October 29, 2:00-3:30 pm ET

The final webinar in the series will explain who can qualify for an exemption from the individual shared responsibility payment. The presentation will also cover how to calculate the penalty for people who don't maintain health coverage or qualify for an exemption. Register [here](#).

Save the Date: Overview of Immigrant Eligibility Policies and Application Processes for Health Insurance Affordability Programs

Thursday, November 19, 2:00-3:30 pm ET

This webinar will be presented in partnership with the National Immigration Law Center (NILC) and the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families (CCF). It will provide an overview of immigrant eligibility policies for health insurance affordability programs, take an in-depth look at the application process for families that include immigrants, and address unique complexities that arise when families that include immigrants apply for health coverage. Registration link not yet available.

If you are unable to participate in any of the webinars, a video recording of each webinar will be available on the *Health Reform: Beyond the Basics* website at www.healthreformbeyondthebasics.org.

A New Road Forward: How Hospital, Public Health, and Stakeholder Collaboration has

Changed the Community Health Landscape

Thursday, October 15, 2015 2:30-4:00 pm ET

The American Public Health Association, Prevention Institute, Public Health Institute, and Trust for America's Health are hosting a new webinar series on engaging multisector stakeholders in Community Health. Register [here](#).

Building Partnerships to Enroll People with Disabilities in the ACA Marketplaces

Thursday, October 15th, 3:00-4:15 pm ET

Five Family Voices' State Affiliate Organizations (SAOs) will share their experiences as "community outreach collaboratives" through the National Disability Navigator Resource Collaborative (NDNRC) Project. The purpose of the project was to build partnerships with other disability organizations to work collaboratively in outreach and dissemination efforts to enroll people with disabilities in the ACA. [Click here to register](#).

Winning the Care for Supported Decision-Making

Tuesday, October 20, 2:00-3:30 pm ET

The National Consumer Law Center, Administration for Community Living, National Legal Resource Center, and Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities are sponsoring a webinar about Supported Decision-Making as an alternative to guardianship. The presenters will teach participants how to "win the case" for Supported Decision-Making at three critical stages: when helping people access supports and services to live independently; when a petition for guardianship has been filed; and when someone is under a guardianship. This webinar is part of a series of National Elder Rights Training Project/Elder Abuse Prevention webinars for the National Legal Resource Center. [Click here](#) to view details and register.

Creating Successful Federal Grant Applications (series)

The Office of Minority Health Resource Center of the US Department of Health and Human Services is presenting a webinar series designed for community-based, faith-based, and other organizations that want to learn the basics of creating successful federal grant applications.

Why All the Excitement about Logic Models?

Tuesday, October 20, 3:30-5:00 pm ET

This webinar provides an overview of logic models and when to use them in both applications and evaluations. The webinar includes how to write specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely (SMART) objectives and how to access logic model designs. Logic model templates are provided. [Register for this webinar](#).

Getting to Know the Federal Government and Funding Opportunities

Thursday, November 5, 3:30-5:00 pm ET

A federal funders panel reveals best practices in responding to federal funding announcements. Opportunities for federal funding are identified. [Register for this webinar](#).

Visit www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov for more information about this webinar series and the Office of Minority Health Resource Center.

National Pediatric Readiness Project: Preparing the Emergency Department to Provide Psychosocial Support to Children and Families in a Disaster

Thursday, October 29, 3:00-4:00 pm ET

The purpose of this webinar is to assist hospitals as they work on pediatric disaster plans. This webinar will discuss short- and long-term effects of disaster on the psychological functioning, emotional adjustment, health, and developmental trajectory of children; identify key elements in the behavioral health domain essential to the provision of psychosocial support to children and families in the aftermath of disaster; and describe practical ways to incorporate behavior health policies and practices into disaster plans and embed them into everyday practice. Those planning to attend this educational event

may find it helpful to review the Checklist prior to the webinar. Users can download one of two versions of the "Checklist of Essential Domains and Considerations for Every Hospital's Disaster Preparedness Policies": an electronic [interactive pdf](#) and a [static, printable pdf](#). Click [here](#) to register.

Advocacy Legalese

Wednesday, November 4, 2:00-3:00 pm ET

The Advocacy team of the National Association of Community Health Centers will host an Advocacy Legalese webinar in coordination with legal experts from Feldsman-Tucker law firm. The webinar will focus on what these health centers need to know to be compliant with IRS, federal, and state regulations when conducting advocacy and civic engagement work. Join the webinar to learn which funding streams may be utilized for advocacy and civic engagement activities, and the dos and don'ts of advocacy and lobbying as a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. To register, click [here](#).

Connecting Partners and Resources to Prepare Youth for Careers

Tuesday, November 10, 1:00-2:30 pm ET

Federal Partners in Transition (FPT) - an effort of several federal agencies, including the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, and the Social Security Administration - will host its first webinar, focusing on post-secondary transition activities for students and youth with disabilities. Educational practices, career development and employment strategies, and benefits counseling will be presented. The event is designed to inform the transition community including students and youth with disabilities, their family members, practitioners, vocational rehabilitation counselors, educators, public and private sector agencies, and other partners about a wide variety of federally funded resources. Registration is open through November 9 and available [here](#).

IN CONGRESS

House Leadership

On September 25, Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH) announced - to - everyone's great shock - that he would resign from Congress on October 30, opening up a race for his position. The Speaker of the House is elected by the entire House, not just the majority party (and, surprisingly, does not even need to be a Member of the House). On Thursday, October 8, the Republicans were scheduled to vote on their nominee for Speaker, and it was widely expected that House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) would be selected. But that day, McCarthy announced - also causing great shock and confusion - that he was withdrawing from the race, apparently because he did not think he could get a majority of the House to vote for him. He will keep his post as Majority Leader. At this point, it is unclear who will emerge as Speaker.

Spending Legislation/Budget Deal

As noted in last week's Update, the government is now being funded by a "continuing resolution" ("CR") until December 11. The uncertainty over House leadership potentially will make it more difficult for the administration to negotiate with Congress on a budget deal. Both parties want to avoid a government shut-down, but it is unclear whether they will succeed in reaching a deal before the December 11 deadline. Many health and education advocates, along with a wide variety of other interest groups, are urging that the spending caps under current law be raised so that more funds can be appropriated for "discretionary" spending programs.

Complicating matters is the fact that Congress soon will need to pass legislation to raise the nation's debt limit, or risk a default on the nation's debt for the first time in history. The Treasury Department estimates that the debt ceiling will need to be raised on or about November 5.

ACA Repeal

As reported in last week's Update, Republican leaders plan to use a so-called "reconciliation" bill to repeal parts of the ACA. A reconciliation bill does not need the usual 60 votes to get through the Senate's procedural hoops. Last week the House Budget Committee combined bills reported out of three committees to repeal aspects of the ACA - the individual and employer mandates, the Independent Payment Advisory Board, the medical-device tax, the "Cadillac tax" (on benefit-rich health insurance plans), and the requirement for large companies to auto-enroll their employees in health coverage. The bill would also rescind unused funds from the ACA's Prevention and Public Health Fund and de-fund Planned Parenthood for one year. The bill is expected to go to the House Floor after this week's recess.

Repeal of the individual and employer mandates would undermine the foundation of the ACA, so even if this legislation makes it all the way through Congress, President Obama would veto it.

ACA NEWS AND INFORMATION

REMEMBER: Open Enrollment Starts November 1!

The next ACA open-enrollment period runs from November 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016. (Plans and prices for 2016 will be available on HealthCare.gov by late October.)

Here are some important dates:

- **November 1, 2015:** Open Enrollment starts - first day you can enroll in a 2016 insurance plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. Coverage can start as soon as January 1, 2016.
- **December 15, 2015:** Last day to enroll in or change plans for new coverage to start January 1, 2016.
- **January 1, 2016:** 2016 coverage starts for those who enroll or change plans by December 15.
- **January 15, 2016:** Last day to enroll in or change plans for new coverage to start February 1, 2016.
- **January 31, 2016:** Open Enrollment ends. Enrollments or changes between January 16 and January 31 take effect March 1, 2016.

If you don't enroll in a 2016 health insurance plan by January 31, 2016, you can't enroll in a health insurance plan for 2016 unless you qualify for a [Special Enrollment Period](#).

Improvements to HealthCare.gov in Plan Comparison and Privacy

Plan comparisons: According to [this article from ABC News](#), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is in the process of making improvements in the HealthCare.gov website that should help consumers find out whether their doctors and medications are covered in the plans they are considering, and get a better estimate of the total costs of each plan, including both premiums and cost-sharing. If all goes well in the testing phase, these new features will be available when the new open-enrollment period begins on November 1.

Privacy: In addition, the administration has announced that there is a new "privacy manager" on HealthCare.gov, which makes it easy for consumers to opt out of the different types of third-party tools that track the site's users. These tracking tools are used by HHS to analyze the site's technical performance or remind users about helpful information like deadlines. Information about each of the third-party tools currently in use is available on the site's [privacy notice](#). Opting out will not impede access to any of the site's features or information. In addition, HHS will automatically observe user preferences related to digital advertising if the user has "Do Not Track" enabled in his/her browser. The privacy manager is accessible by clicking on "Privacy Settings" at the bottom of the homepage of [HealthCare.gov](#). For more information, see [this blog post](#) from HealthCare.gov and [this article](#) from *The Hill*.

Worth Repeating and Updated: "Periodic Data Matching"

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently began sending notices (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) to a small number of consumers in federally facilitated marketplace (FFM) states who were enrolled in both Medicaid or CHIP coverage and subsidized Marketplace coverage (advance premium tax credits and/or cost-sharing reductions). [Note: This does NOT affect the following states using [healthcare.gov](#): Alaska, Delaware, Georgia, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Wyoming.]

Under the ACA, individuals are not permitted to receive subsidies for the purchase of health insurance if they already have "minimum essential coverage." CHIP coverage and full Medicaid coverage (as opposed to limited coverage under a waiver or other special category) are considered minimum essential coverage. Thus, if someone becomes eligible for Medicaid or CHIP after enrollment in a subsidized Marketplace plan, he or she must disenroll from that plan. Otherwise, the individual will have to pay back all or some of the advanced premium tax credits they received for the months they were simultaneously enrolled in Marketplace coverage and Medicaid/CHIP. The onus is on the consumer to disenroll. For more information, see these resources:

- [Process for Ending Coverage in a QHP through the Marketplace with APTC and CSRs](#)
- [HealthCare.gov general instructions on ending Marketplace coverage](#)
- [Periodic Data Matching FAQ](#)

Worth Repeating: Nondiscrimination and the ACA

As noted last week, the Department of Health and Human Services has issued a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) to clarify and implement a provision of the ACA, Section 1557, that prohibits discrimination in health care insurance and health care services. An overview of the proposed regulation and **FAQs (in multiple languages)** can be found [here](#), and more information is available in the September [Health Advocate](#), from the National Health Law Program (NHeLP). Public comments are due on **November 9 and can be submitted [here](#)**. Family Voices will be working with other organizations to develop comments.

ACA RESOURCES

Worth Repeating and Updated: Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for the federal and state Marketplaces begins on **November 1, 2015, and runs through January 31, 2016**. [Here](#) is a link to the important dates mentioned above. Below are some resources to help both consumers and those assisting them.

Materials for Consumers

- ***NEW***: Consumers can connect with HealthCare.gov to learn about upcoming changes, deadlines, and new features and to be contacted as soon as 2016 health plans and prices are available to preview. [Here](#) are 3 simple ways to get connected ([email and texts](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)).
- **Preparation for Open Enrollment**: Consumers can prepare for enrollment by visiting [this page](#) on HealthCare.gov.
- **Resources for Those Turning 26**: [This infographic](#) provides important information on the Marketplace for young adults. Consumers who have health insurance under their parent's plan and who are turning 26 this year, have options for coverage. Those options will depend on whether their parents have insurance through their job or through the Health Insurance Marketplace. Click [here](#) for a video on the same topic.

Materials for Assisters

- **CMS Weekly Assister Newsletter:** To sign up for the CMS Weekly Assister Newsletter, send a request to the Assister Listserv inbox (ASSISTERLISTSERV@cms.hhs.gov) and write "Add to listserv" in the subject line. Include the email address that you would like to add in the **body** of your email.
- **From Coverage to Care Enrollment Toolkit - Summary, Resources, and Answers to Assister Questions:** This [Enrollment Toolkit](#) offers advice for assisters on how to help consumers choose the best plan for themselves and their families. It addresses what consumers need to know before choosing and enrolling in a plan, such as the value of health insurance, the importance of understanding key health insurance terms, and an explanation of how to discuss updating information that might affect consumers' coverage or financial assistance on HealthCare.gov. The Toolkit helps to explain these topics to consumers and provides further resources. [Click here](#) to view additional resources, including the *Roadmap to Better Care and a Healthier You*.
- **Families USA Enrollment Assistance Network:** The Families USA Enrollment Assistance Network has updated three resources on its [Enrollment Assister Resource Center](#): [Get Ready to Get Health Coverage](#) (bilingual); *Health Insurance Options for Latinos* ([English](#) and [Spanish](#) version); and *Health Insurance Basics: Key Words and Phrases You Need to Know* ([English](#) and [Spanish](#) version).

Worth Repeating: Analysis of ACA's Prescription Drug Standards

The National Health Law Program (NHeLP) has developed a series of [five publications](#) providing a comprehensive analysis of the revised Essential Health Benefits (EHB) prescription drug standards released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

OTHER NEWS AND INFORMATION

New National Center of Excellence for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

On October 7, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced the establishment of a new National Center of Excellence for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (Center of Excellence). The Education Development Center, Inc., in Waltham, Massachusetts, will receive \$6 million over the course of the next four years to manage the Center, and advance the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) model, an intervention that builds the capacity of teachers, home visitors and parents to address challenging behaviors and promote social-emotional development. The model has shown positive impacts in infant and early childhood mental health intervention to promote the social, emotional, and behavioral health and development of young children. The Center of Excellence will help provide tools, resources and expertise to child care centers, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, and other home visiting programs to ensure the healthy development of children during their early years. See [this article](#) from SAMHSA.

Rule on Pay for Home Care Workers Will Go into Effect

As reported in earlier updates, the Department of Labor (DOL) issued a rule in 2013 to require that most home care workers receive minimum wages and overtime pay. The rule would affect about two million workers. To allow an adjustment period for home care employers (including states who pay workers through Medicaid), the DOL [decided](#) not to make the rule effective until January 1, 2015, and to refrain from strict enforcement until January 1, 2016. Home care companies sued to challenge the authority of the DOL to issue this rule, but eventually, a federal appeals court ruled in the government's favor. The rule was set to become effective on October 13, 2015, but the industry sought a delay of the effective

date until it could make an appeal to the Supreme Court. On October 6, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts denied the request to delay the effective date, however. The home care companies can still appeal the appeals court ruling to the Supreme Court, but the DOL rule will be effective in the meantime. See [this article](#) from *Disability Scoop*. These resources about the rule are available:

- [DOL Resources for Workers, Families, and Agencies](#); [DOL Final Rule - Summary](#)
- [Fact sheet](#) and [Advocacy guide](#) developed by disability groups

"No Wrong Door" System Grants

Last week, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) [awarded nearly \\$5 million in grants to 13 states](#) (8 continued and 5 new) to further develop "No Wrong Door" Systems. Through such systems, multiple state and community agencies coordinate to ensure that, regardless of which agency people contact for help, they will receive information and one-on-one counseling about the options available across all relevant public agencies and in their communities. The "No Wrong Door" systems also provide assistance in accessing services, including help in completing applications for various public and private programs. These grants are part of an ongoing partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to support state efforts to advance system-wide changes to make it easier for elderly people and those with disabilities to remain in their own homes and communities. Of the 13 states that received current funding, eight (Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin) will [continue work begun and funded by ACL in prior years](#) to transform their access systems. The remaining five states (Alabama, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Virginia) [are launching new initiatives](#). [Read the news release to learn more.](#)

Invisible Disabilities Week

The [Invisible Disabilities Association](#) (IDA) has created [Invisible Disabilities Week](#), October 18 through 24, 2015, for the second year in a row. Online events are scheduled each day of the week. IDA will be using #InvisibleDisabilitiesWeek on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. See [this Disabilities.gov blog post](#) by the IDA President for more information.

OTHER RESOURCES

Native One-Stop Portal

[Benefits.gov](#), the official benefits website of the United States, launched a portal of resources for Native American, Alaskan Native, and tribal populations. The portal, [Native One-Stop](#), provides information about any service that these populations might need, with topics ranging from assistance for populations with severe disabilities to congressional internships for Native Americans.

Family-Centered Medical Home Training Manual

Recently published is "[North Carolina Project LAUNCH: A Family Centered Medical Home Training Manual](#)," which is designed for use in pediatric primary care settings interested in developing a family-centered model of care to better meet the needs of patients and their families. The manual showcases the work done under the North Carolina LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health) grant from SAMHSA and other federal agencies, describing how to incorporate family partners with pediatric practices in ways that help with the mental health needs of families and youth. For more information about the Project LAUNCH as a national initiative, visit: <http://www.healthysafechildren.org/grantee/project-launch>.

ParityTrack: Website on Implementation of Mental Health Parity Laws

The Kennedy Forum and the Scattergood Foundation have unveiled [ParityTrack](#), an online resource designed to provide information on implementation of the federal and state parity laws in all 50 states.

The site includes information on legislation, regulations, and litigation in each state and seeks to help consumers understand their rights under the federal and state parity laws.

TRICARE: Exceptional Care for Exceptional Family Members

[From TRICARE [Benefit Update](#), October 7, 2015]

Active duty military service members can enroll their family members with special needs into the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP). EFMP is a program specific to each Service. The program coordinates moving assignments to support families with special medical and educational needs. Enrolling in EFMP makes the family member eligible for the TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO), which provides TRICARE coverage of supplemental services, like durable medical equipment and respite care. To qualify for ECHO, the TRICARE sponsor must be an active duty service member, an activated National Guard or Reserve member, or meet one of the [other criteria](#). ECHO provides benefits to those diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, moderate or severe intellectual disability, a serious physical disability, or a severe physical or psychological condition. To maintain enrollment status, **you must re-enroll into the EFMP every time you switch installations** and enter your family member's disability in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System (DEERS). For a smoother transition, talk to your child's case manager and regional contractor before you move.

For more information, visit the [Resources for Families with Special Needs](#) and the [Extended Care Health Option](#) pages on the TRICARE website. You can also download the [ECHO Fact Sheet](#).

Sign up for TRICARE e-mail updates at www.tricare.mil/subscriptions.

Of Possible Interest

NCMHI Seeking Models of Pediatric Medical Homes

The [National Center for Medical Home Implementation](#) (NCMHI) is collecting innovative and promising practices in pediatric medical home implementation. If you are working in a program or know of a program that provides care within the pediatric medical home model and would like to be featured on the NCMHI Web site, [view the application and selection criteria](#).

Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation Announces Public Policy Fellowship

The [Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation](#) is seeking exemplary professionals, and/or persons experiencing disability and/or family members of persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are currently working or volunteering in the field of inclusive services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for an intensive one-year Public Policy Fellowship in Washington, DC. The purpose of the Fellowship is to prepare both early career and more seasoned leaders to assume leadership in the public policy arena in their home state and/or nationally. Read more [here](#).

Worth Repeating: Families Needed for Study of Inequities in Coverage and Financing Research

The [Catalyst Center](#) is recruiting participants for a research study about inequities in coverage and financing of care for children with special health care needs (CSHCN). They are currently recruiting parents and/or caregivers of CSHCN who represent families of color, immigrants and families from diverse cultural backgrounds, those who speak a language other than English, and those with low income. This project will use telephone interviews to explore the barriers that these families face and services and supports that may help address these barriers. The time commitment for families is about 30-60 minutes for the telephone interview. For more information, click [here](#).

Worth Repeating: Survey on Services for People with Genetic Conditions and their Families - Deadline October 28

The [Genetic Alliance](#) is conducting a national survey on access to and the quality of genetic services and is asking organizations to reach out to families to get respondents. The goal of the survey is to get information that will help the Genetic Alliance to deliver a meaningful message about what is

needed to improve genetic services and the overall healthcare experience for individuals with genetic conditions and their families. To be eligible, respondents must live in the United States and have been told by a doctor or other health care provider that they (or their child) have a genetic condition. To complete the survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ImprovingGeneticServices>. The deadline to submit survey answers is **Wednesday, October 28**. All responses will be kept confidential. Questions should be directed to Sharon Alexander, Program Manager at salexander@geneticalliance.org.

Worth Repeating: Consumer Representatives Sought by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners - Deadline October 31

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) is now accepting applications for its [2016 Consumer Liaison Program](#), which promotes consumer representation by having representatives of consumer organizations participate in NAIC meetings. The NAIC provides travel expense reimbursement to consumer representatives to enable them to attend NAIC meetings. Qualified candidates must meet the following criteria: have a commitment to representing consumer interests in insurance regulation, represent a non-profit organization, be willing to fully participate in NAIC meetings and conference calls, have demonstrated expertise and experience on insurance-related issues, not have conflicting obligations or commitments to an industry that limit his/her ability to represent consumer interests, and require NAIC funding. Interested parties who do not want or need backing for a consumer representative position, may apply to be an unfunded consumer representative. The NAIC's website provides additional information about the [Consumer Liaison Program](#) and describes the application process to become a funded or unfunded consumer representative. **The application deadline is 5 p.m. Central time, Oct. 31, 2015.** All candidates must complete the application and attach all documents requested. Applicants will be notified in mid-December of 2015 regarding their selection as funded or unfunded consumer representatives for the 2016 calendar year.

PUBLIC POLICY CORNER

Please help us make the Update more useful to you

We would love to hear any suggestions you might have about how to make the Update more useful to you. Does it provide the right amount of information? What parts are helpful and not so helpful? Please let us know!

And, as always, please feel free to contact us with any questions. Comments and questions can be directed to jguerney@familyvoices.org.

If you care to unsubscribe, you can do so via the "SafeUnsubscribe" link below.

Yours truly,

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NOTE: Past issues of the Update appear on the [Family Voices website](#).

FAMILY VOICES

Family Voices Needs YOU!

Did you know that Family Voices has a three-tiered membership program? Family Voices offers three types of membership: [individual](#), [organizational](#), and [State Affiliate Organization](#). All members are a significant part in our collective effort to keep families at the center of children's health care. Members receive benefits such as discounts, early notification of events, and inclusion in a members-only listserv. Your membership provides much-needed support for education, advocacy, and technical assistance on children and youth with special health care needs/disabilities across the country. We hope to welcome you as a member of Family Voices soon. For more information about Family Voices and how you can join and be part of our work, please visit www.familyvoices.org.

Our Mission: Family Voices aims to achieve family-centered care for all children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities. Through our national grassroots network, we provide families tools to make informed decisions, advocate for improved public and private policies, build partnerships among professionals and families, and serve as a trusted resource on health care.

We do this through our state affiliates and our programs: the National Center for Family/Professional Partnerships, IMPACT, and Kids as Self Advocates. Family Voices is a national nonprofit organization led by families of children with special health care needs at the board and staff leadership level nationally and in most states.

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